GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2729
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2001
SESSION OF ORGANIC FARMING
RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether ICAR organized Brain Storming Session on Organic farming in September 1998 in association with Bharatiya Cattle Resource Development Foundation (BCRDF);

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations given by it;

(c) the steps taken to implement them specially when the recommendation had the approval of DG during intervening period;

(d) whether any progamme has been made on investment and incentives required for implementing and consequent benefits in saving ill-effects of agro-chemicals and subsidy thereon; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Annexure-I.

(c) These recommendations have been examined. There is a proposal to strengthen a Network on `Organic Farming` research during the X Five-Year Plan. This proposal has been sent to Planning Commission Working Group for X Plan for kind consideration and comments.

(d) The fertilizer saving technologies like adoption of integrated plant nutrient system (IPNS), green manuring and crop residue incorporation, use of bio-fertilizers in legume and cereal crops and use of phospho-compost and vermi-compost are being disseminated by state and central agencies for adoption by the farmers. Bio-fertilizers are made available through ICAR institutes, State Agricultural University and State Agriculture Departments at very affordable rates and do not call for any subsidy.

(f) Not applicable.

Annexure-I

MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Inventorizaiton of available resources for Organic Farming.

2. Establishment of a `Centre of Excellence on Organic Farming` under NARS.

3. Establishment of a country-wide `Network for Research on Organic Farming` - the proposal is being developed by the Council for consideration during X Plan.

4. Documentation of available indigenous technological knowledge (ITK) and other technologies development by various public sector research centres/NGOs/individuals on different aspects of organic farming in India.

5. Introduction of core course(s) on `Concepts and Practices in Organic Farming` in the curriculum of under-graduate and post-graduate degree programmes at different SAUs and other agricultural Institutes.

6. Expert groups, comprising eminent agricultural and social scientists and progressive farmers may be constituted for visiting successful fan-ners associated with organic farming practices. The group may submit a detailed report covering various aspects of organic farming.

7. Standardization of mechanisms/niethods for suitable judging/classifying the `Organic Farming`.

8. Formulation of appropriate package of practices in the area of organic farming for important production systems of the country.

9. Dissemination of knowledge on organic farming through Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKS) field demonstrations, TV-programmes and other suitable media.